ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE
Provincial Operations Intelligence Bureau

SITUATION REPORT

DATE: 2022-02-07 **FILE NAME: Project HENDON**

Report#: 036-2022 **Event: Freedom Convoy/BearHug 2.0**

Protected B - Medium Sensitivity - Particularly sensitive information requiring protection.		
☒	**Third Party Rule**	This information cannot be used, duplicated or disseminated without approval from the author.

The information in this report is current to 2022-02-07 at 1230 hours.

Owing to the current social protest landscape this Situation Report is organized into three main sections, each with specific information relevant to **Ottawa, Toronto, and Ontario.**

PREFACE: ***The format of this Situation Report delineates between police information and information gathered through open sources. Media and social media information has been incorporated in this report towards developing all-source intelligence in support of providing greater context, and which may identify indicators, ideologies, and attitudes that could motivate subjects of interest and influence their behaviours.***

OTTAWA: POLICE INFORMATION & OBSERVATIONS

Items in this section are presented in order of seriousness of the potential threat:

The OPP continues to be engaged in this initiative with resources on the ground providing real-time updates and observations to the National Capital Region Command Centre – Combined Intelligence Group as events unfold.

- The City of Ottawa has declared a State of Emergency.
- The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) issued a social media message advising that anyone providing material support to blockade participants could be subject to arrest.
- OPP reporting noted that on 2022-02-06, while issuing a ticket to a protestor, two uniformed OPS members were surrounded by other protestors described as vocal and aggressive. A convoy participant reportedly intervened to de-escalate the situation.
- OPP members observed increased tensions and verbal confrontations between convoy participants and counter-protestors, who mainly appeared to be Ottawa residents.

OTTAWA: OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION (Media and Social Media)

Items in this section are presented in order of seriousness of the potential threat:

- Social media messaging in response to the OPS advisory about arresting individual providing material support to the demonstrators stated:
  - if the blockade were illegal, the police would already have arrested everyone
  - the police were engaging in harassment and potential police brutality
  - the police were bluffing
  - protestors should defend themselves against the police using heavy sticks or pool cues being used as flag poles.

- Social media messaging suggests that individuals are collecting donated supplies in northern Ontario and transporting them to the blockade in Ottawa. The most recent social media captured at 1054 hours this date indicates that they have departed North Bay and are en route to Ottawa.

- A video was identified of an interview of [redacted] in which:
  - [redacted] claims that OPP officers refused him the use of a shuttle to go to the stage (possibly referring to a stage reported to be on Wellington Street), resulting in him being carried for three blocks ([redacted] currently has a cast on one leg);
  - [redacted] mused as to the potential significance of different police services being in Ottawa;
  - an individual identified as a lawyer for the blockade organizers indicated that GiveSendGo has assured them in writing that under no circumstances would the company withhold donations;
  - [redacted] also claims that he was contacted by [redacted][1] connecting him with his "executive team" for fundraising and to ensure that they have no issues with censorship;
  - an individual self-identifies as [redacted] and states that the Twitter page "[redacted]", which is noted on the convoy's daily reports, is his Twitter page;
  - the interviewees claim that the only blockades are the ones that the police have established.

- An online video shows a construction bin full of what appears to be chunks of concrete. The individuals filming claimed that they were rocks that the police were preparing to use against them even though they are not violent. A social media message depicts the bin being removed: the caption claims that the farmers made the police move it. (*Police reporting confirmed that the bin was full of material from a building renovation and had been in place for some time.*)
- An online video depicts individuals, apparently at the blockade in Ottawa, discussing getting people with jerry cans to surround the police. Other social media asks people to come to the blockade and walk around with empty jerry cans to distract the police.

[1] [redacted] is a conservative American political commentator and host of *The* [redacted] *Report*, a YouTube-based talk show.

- Social media messaging encourages people to carry fuel in discreet containers such as canteens and Thermos bottles.
- In an online video, [redacted] claims that his sources inside police had advised him that the government has opted to use "brute force" and that hundreds of RCMP Public Order Units are being bussed in and mass arrests would happen overnight. He also states that all cell phone service in the area of the blockade would be shut down. He also claims that these orders were coming directly from the top and from "the State".
- Social media messaging in the name of the OTTAWA FREEDOM COLLECTIVE is calling for volunteers to watch the stage in shifts to report any suspicious activity.
- Social media messaging that Canada Unity has moved its Command Centre from Confederation Park to 1500 Bronson Avenue in Ottawa.

TORONTO: POLICE INFORMATION & OBSERVATIONS

- A pick-up truck with flags drove past the Premier's house in the evening of 2022-02-05. A passenger may have been taking a video.
- Toronto Police report possible infighting amongst factions at the Queens Park protest.

TORONTO: OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION (Media and Social Media)

- Social media messaging indicates that [redacted] may have disassociated themselves from the Convoy for Freedom Toronto.

Analytical Comment: *Police observations and social media messaging both suggest a split in the group that attended Queens Park on 2022-02-05. The implications of this are unknown.*

ONTARIO: POLICE INFORMATION & OBSERVATIONS

- Westbound Highway 402 to Blue Water Bridge blocked by tractor convoy on 2022-02-06.
- [redacted] (1961-06-05), self-proclaimed supporter of [redacted], failed to use ArriveCan and self-declared as unvaccinated, ran the port at Sault Ste. Marie.
- Local support convoys and protests (see Event Schedule).

Ontario: OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION (Media and Social Media)

- Social media messaging indicates that a province-wide school walkout is being organized for 2022-02-11 with the goal of ending mask mandates and all restrictions.
- [redacted] has stated in an online video that they may be moving trucks for a slow roll.
- Social media messaging has called for peaceful protests in all jurisdictions that have provided police personnel to Ottawa.

OTHER

- Open source research has identified a video on a Facebook page in the name of [redacted] in which a male, who claims to be at 302 Coventry Road in Ottawa, makes a general call for all truck drivers to come to Ottawa. He notes that they intend to stay in Ottawa until the "system" and corruption ends. He discusses the enforcement action that occurred at the site in the evening of 2022-02-06, and deems it as illegal. He then says that he has noticed police from other services in Ottawa, and claims that they have no authority in Ottawa and their presence there is illegal. He then encourages protestors to remain peaceful, because if they do not, the government will get more nervous and resort to more illegal tactics. He then states: that "on veut éliminer ce gouvernement-lá" ("*we want to eliminate that government*").
- The Sûreté du Québec has advised Project HENDON of nine organized protests planned for between 2022-02-07 and 2022-02-19. Some support the commercial truck drivers and the ongoing blockade, while others represent a range of grievances or social causes, including no masks for children; air quality; freedom; and money for social housing.
- The new fundraiser on GiveSendGo has raised almost $4.7 M USD and a Bitcoin wallet for the blockade contains almost $500,000 CAD. The ADOPT A TRUCKER account on GiveSendGo has raised almost $452,000 USD.

ASSESSMENT

The situation in Ottawa remains volatile and represents a public safety threat; an officer safety threat; and, potentially, a national security threat. The available information suggests that the blockade has ample moral, logistical, and financial support to remain in place long-term.

The ongoing blockade may now be a symbol of general resistance to authority and defiance of the law and may be nurturing a broad anti-authority movement that goes beyond the issue of public health requirements for cross-border commercial truck drivers. Actions and statements by convoy organizers and others attending the blockade continue to reflect paranoia and distrust of law enforcement and government. The blockade appears to have attracted individuals and movements that are not aligned with the purported original issue of the truck drivers. This is reflected in statements regarding getting rid of "the system" or of corruption; restoring the law; and in the calls for the government to dissolve, and for the Prime Minister and other federal leaders to step down (previously reported in *Project HENDON Situation Report dated 2022-01-28*). The ongoing blockade will continue to attract opportunists wishing to promote their own ideological agendas.

Calls by blockade participants and organizers to obstruct major cities, roadways and border points are almost certain to translate into more action. Further blockades to land transportation, including at international ports of entry, should be expected for the foreseeable future. Some of these, such as those blocking border crossings to the US that are integral to international trade, have the potential to negatively affect the Canadian economy at the local, provincial, and national level, as well as inconveniencing the travelling public. It is also possible that some groups may attempt to blockade roadways around major airports, although we have no information at this time to support this hypothesis.

Increasing tension between individuals supporting the Ottawa blockade and citizens who are opposed to it is likely to lead to conflict. The likelihood of conflict may be increasing with the duration of the blockade, as tolerance amongst residents decreases.

Project HENDON has identified no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest, Operation BearHug 2.0., or local solidarity protests. However, a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a threat with little or no warning.

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ANTICIPATED EVENT SCHEDULE – Support Convoys or Demonstrations

This list is derived from information provided by the OPP and its partners. Many of these events have been identified through social media.

The overall situation is fluid: these events may change and spontaneous events may occur without warning.

2022-02-07

- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800 hours)
- **Windsor: Local Convoy** - Ambassador Bridge
- **Sarnia: Local Convoy** – Blue Water Bridge (unconfirmed)

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